knock down the bridge at that designated communication endpoint, and then the ADI facilitates the commanded bridging function. The radiating antennas at the user locations provide wireless links to the radio users at the location and the first responders. The public safety radio system often uses a radio tower or a collection of towers to provide links to their users, such as first responders which exchange dispatch voice messages with the 911 Call Center. The school district may have its own local area network with suitable network equipment, such as routers or switches. This local area network is connected to other local area networks via the Internet/Worldwide Web. The 911 Call Center and emergency responders may operate on their own local area network and which also communicate with the local area network school districts through a network transport or Internet connection. When the software associated with the invention is configured on terminals at each communication endpoint, users at those locations can operate the system in accordance with the privileges associated with the site software installation. As also discussed, the software installations at the various communication endpoints provides the proper indications and activation options enabling users to operate the system or to monitor the system. The software and the status and activation commands are configured and monitored by the network server. The number of communication endpoints, radios, and public safety communication endpoints is virtually unlimited in the present invention since radio bridging is web based. So long as each of the communication endpoints have their own IP addresses, the appropriate software can be installed at those locations to enable the communication bridges to be established between selected communicants, as established by an administrator of the system. As also mentioned, the server has the ability to manage e-mail or text messages to other networks in which activation has been achieved for selected communication endpoints. It is also contemplated that the server can be programmed to provide other services such as VOIP communications. Periodic testing can be conducted at the local control panels in order to ensure that the system is operating correctly at that location. Additional activation buttons/controls may be provided on the panels in order to accomplish these tests. These tests could also be processed at any operator terminal, to include testing of the integrity of the software to ensure the system as set up by the administrator is properly functioning.

While a system and method of the present invention have been set forth above with respect to a particular preferred embodiment, it shall be understood that various other modifications and changes may be made to the invention in accordance with the scope of the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A communication system especially adapted for facilitating emergency communications between communicants having respective radio systems, said system comprising:

a first computer processor located at an emergency call center location or an emergency responder location, said first computer processor including a first user interface and a first input means for inputting data in said first computer processor;

a second computer processor located at a communication endpoint location, said second computer processor including a second user interface and a second input means for inputting data in said second computer processor;

a communication server for managing communications between users located at said locations;

a communications network for interconnecting said communications server and said computer processors, said server and each of said computer processors having respective IP addresses;

a public radio system comprising a plurality of public safety radios, at least one public safety radio being associated with said emergency call center or emergency responder locations;

a local radio system comprising a plurality of local radios, at least one local radio being associated with said communication endpoint;

a radio bridge for facilitating direct radio communications between said public safety radio system and said local radio system, said radio bridge being installed at said communication endpoint and including hardware to enable connection between the radio systems, said bridge further including a processor that communicates with said server to receive activation and deactivation instructions sent from an authorized user, said instructions being sent as IP packets over the communications network; and

computer coded instructions associated with said server and said computer processors to selectively control and monitor the system to include (i) activation and deactivation of said radio bridge as controlled by said first computer and to prevent activation and deactivation control at said communication endpoint, and (ii) to produce visual displays on said user interfaces; and

wherein said visual displays include an activation or status screen showing an Audio Detect feature, said Audio Detect feature being an indication of which communication endpoints are currently transmitting radio communications at that time.

2. A communication system especially adapted for facilitating emergency communications between communicants having respective radio systems, said system comprising:

a first computer processor located at an emergency call center location or an emergency responder location, said first computer processor including a first user interface and a first input means for inputting data in said first computer processor;

a second computer processor located at a communication endpoint location, said second computer processor including a second user interface and a second input means for inputting data in said second computer processor;

a communication server for managing communications between users of said respective computer processors located at said locations;

a communications network for interconnecting said communications server and said computer processors, said server and each of said computer processors having respective IP addresses;

a public radio system comprising a plurality of public safety radios, at least one public safety radio being associated with said emergency call center or emergency responder locations;

a local radio system comprising a plurality of local radios, at least one local radio being associated with said communication endpoint;

a radio bridge for facilitating direct radio communications between said public safety radio system and said local radio system, said radio bridge being installed at said communication endpoint and including hardware to enable connection between the radio systems, said bridge further including a processor that communicates with said server to receive activation and deactivation